

West Chester, PA -- On Friday, March 16, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07), a member of the US House's Education and Labor Committee, held the second installment of a two-part Education Summit series. The second Summit explored the challenges facing our Higher Education system and Advanced Training programs. The Summit was held at West Chester University's Swope Music Building and Performing Arts Center Auditorium. The event provided an opportunity for education stakeholders in the 7th district to discuss key higher educational issues with Congressional lawmakers and policy experts.

The event, see enclosed agenda, will consist of panel discussions on:

- 1) The Needs of the Workforce
- 2) Advanced Training
- 3) Higher Education
- 4) Creating a Link Between Affordable Higher Education, Advanced Training and Industry.

"I believe we must do everything in our power to ensure that our children have the skills they need to compete in an increasingly global economy, which is why I sought a seat on the Education and Labor Committee," noted Joe. "Today, I am pleased to be joined by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Chairman Rubén Hinojosa, and the many other distinguished guests.

"The goal of today's summit is to bring together those invested in the education system to discuss challenges with those in a position to solve them. We will examine the pertinent issues facing our higher education system and advanced training programs, which is especially timely since Congress is poised to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. I plan to issue a report summarizing today's proceedings so that it can be transformed into a legislative agenda."

Special guest panelists included Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, the Chairman of the US House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness and US House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer.

Included invitees were: Presidents of universities, colleges, and community colleges along with Deans of Education, Engineering, and others; advanced training schools; chambers of commerce; businesses; unions; regional development groups; principals; and superintendents of high schools; among others

Joe will be turning his Summit's reports into legislation.

The first installment of his two-part series of Education Summits consisted of panel discussions on early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and special education. They were led by Congressman George Miller, the Chairman of the US House education and Labor Committee

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "DeepBlue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

###

Friday, March 16, 2007

Education Summit  
Part II: Higher Education and Advanced Training

Location: West Chester University, The Swope Music Building and Performing Arts Center Auditorium

Event Description: The second installment of the two-part Education Summit series, this Summit will explore the challenges facing our Higher Education system and Advanced Training

programs, and possible solutions to those challenges.

### Tentative Agenda

7:30AM                      Registration

8:00AM – 9:15AM   Needs of the Workforce

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists (Pending Acceptances):

Dr. Gary Gabriele, Dean of Engineering, Villanova University

Dr. Jerry Parker, President, Delaware County Community College

Jack Holefelder, President, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

Wendell Young, President, UFCW Local 1776

Mickey Flynn, President, Pennsylvania BIO

- Special Panel Guest: The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness
- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

9:15AM – 11:45AM   Advanced Training

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists (Pending Acceptances):

James Hermes, Senior Legislative Associate, American Association of Community Colleges

Dr. Chet Wichowski, Associate Director, Center for Professional Development in Career and Technical Education, Temple University

Dr. Paul A. Reid, President, Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion\*

- Special Panel Guest: The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness
- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

11:45AM – 12:15 PM     Break for Working Lunch

12:15PM – 2:45 PM     Higher Education  
(2:30PM-2:45PM break)

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists (Some acceptances pending):

Dr. Michelle Cooper, Director of Policy Research, Advisory Committee for Student Financial Assistance

Dr. Kathleen Shaw, Deputy Secretary for Post-Secondary and Higher Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Dr. Laura Perna, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education

Dr. Kenoye Eke, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Cheney University

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion\*

- Special Panel Guest: The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness
- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

2:45PM – 4:00 PM     Creating a Linkage between Affordable Higher Education, Advanced Training and Industry

Moderator: The Honorable Joe Sestak, Member of Congress

- Expert Panelists (Some acceptances pending):

Mr. Chris Starr, Vice President of Investments, University City Science Center, Managing Director and Vice President of Investments, Innovation Philadelphia

Dr. Madeline Adler, President, West Chester University

Joseph Houldin, CEO, Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center

Five Minute Presentations each to set the framework for Discussion\*

- Special Panel Guest: The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, House Majority Leader
- Panel followed by Discussion with audience

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM Press Availability with Congressman Hoyer}